

Texas A&M International University
A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business
Center for the Study of Western Hemispheric Trade



INTERNATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE 2017-2018 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the U.S.-México Boundary”



PRESENTED BY:

Ronald Rael

Associate Professor of Architecture and
Eva Li Memorial Chair in Architecture
University of California, Berkeley

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (SC 203)

Reception 7 p.m. | Lecture 7:30 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.

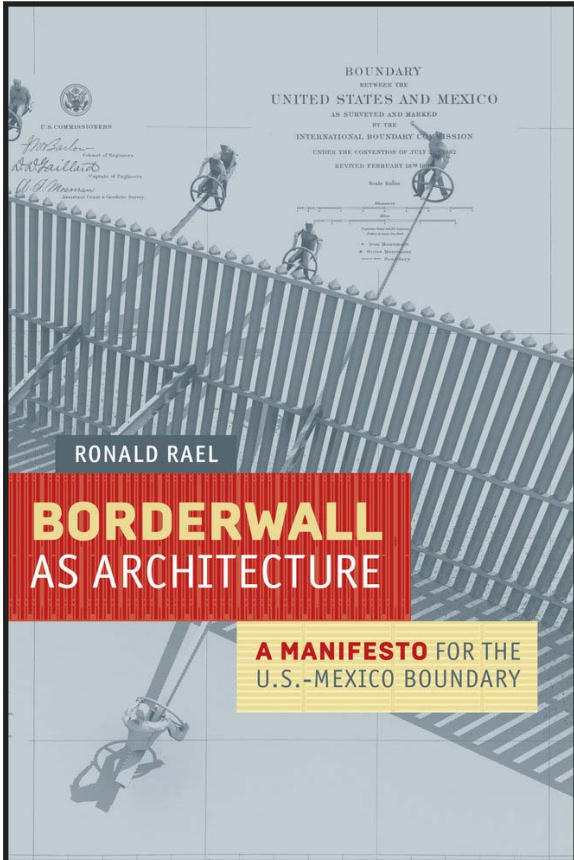
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5201 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041





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Ronald Rael will discuss his new book, *Borderwall as Architecture*, a timely re-examination of what the physical barrier that divides the United States of America from the United Mexican States is and could be. It is both a protest against the wall and a projection about its future.

Through a series of propositions suggesting that the nearly seven hundred miles of wall is an opportunity for economic and social development along the border that encourages its conceptual and physical dismantling, the book takes readers on a journey along a wall that cuts through a “third nation”—the Divided States of America. On the way, the transformative effects of the wall on people, animals, and the natural and built landscape are exposed and interrogated through the story of people who, on both sides of the border, transform the wall, challenging its existence in remarkably creative ways.

Coupled with these real-life accounts are counterproposals for the wall, created by Rael’s studio, that reimagine, hyperbolize, or question the wall and its construction, cost, performance, and meaning.

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Ronald Rael

Associate Professor of Architecture and
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University of California, Berkeley

Ronald Rael is an associate professor, the Eva Li Memorial Chair in Architecture, and the Chair of the Masters of Architecture Committee at UC Berkeley. He directs the printFARM Laboratory (print Facility for Architecture, Research, and Materials), holds a joint appointment in the Department of Architecture, in the College of Environmental Design, and the Department of Art Practice, and is both a Bakar and Hellman Fellow. His teaching spans the curriculum, from graduate design thesis and undergraduate courses on design to activism, and he has twice directed the one year post-professional Master of Architecture program, Studio One.

He is an applied architectural researcher, design activist, author, and thought leader in the fields of additive manufacturing and earthen architecture. In 2014, his creative practice, Rael San Fratello (with architect Virginia San Fratello), was named an Emerging Voice by The Architectural League of New York—one of the most coveted awards in North American architecture. In 2016, Rael San Fratello was also awarded the Digital Practice Award of Excellence by the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA).

He is the author of *Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the U.S.-México Boundary* (University of California Press 2017), which advocates for a reconsideration of the barrier dividing the U.S. and México through design proposals that are hyperboles of actual scenarios that have occurred as a consequence of the wall, and *Earth Architecture* (Princeton Architectural Press 2008), which is a history of building with earth in the modern era to exemplify new and creative uses of the oldest building material on the planet. Emerging Objects, a company co-founded by Rael, is an independent, creatively driven, 3D Printing MAKE-tank specializing in innovations in 3D printing architecture, building components, environments, and products.

Rael earned his Master of Architecture degree at Columbia University in New York City, where he was the recipient of the William Kinne Memorial Fellowship. Previous academic and professional appointments include positions at the Southern California Institute for Architecture (SCI_arc), Clemson University, the University of Arizona, and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam. His work has been published widely, including *The New York Times*, *Wired*, *MARK*, *Domus*, *Metropolis Magazine*, *PRAXIS*, *Thresholds*, *Log*, and recognized by several institutions including the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, La Biennale di Venezia, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and Storefront for Art and Architecture. His work is included in the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art in New York.



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